



RTBU NSW NEWSFLASH

Storm update

The recent storms across NSW have caused widespread pain across parts of the state. We've seen a devastating loss of life and thousands of homes damaged.

Our railways didn't escape unharmed either, with both the Hunter Valley line and the North Coast line severely damaged by the weather.

Line closures

The Hunter Valley line was cut for a number of days following the storm, however the line is now back up and running as usual.

Unfortunately the North Coast line is still not operational owing to some very serious damage to parts of the track, however ARTC is now anticipating that the line will be open this weekend.

Impact on members

The RTBU has been working around the clock in an attempt to minimise the impact on members.

Following continuous discussions with Pacific National, the company set up a temporary transport terminal in Kempsey to ensure supplies can get to their intended destination and so that workers are given every possibility to continue to work.

The company has also agreed to develop an emergency working procedure which outlines the broad principles the company is working to during the current emergency situation.

Among the key principles the company has agreed to include:

- A commitment to only stand down employees when agreement can't be reached or if the employee has no leave accrued, and
- A commitment to exploring flexible working arrangements and the sharing of hours to ensure that members willing and able to work are given every chance to.

Despite Aurizon's initial refusal to work closely with the RTBU and its somewhat rash decision to immediately stand down employees, the union has now managed to convince the company to work with its employees to minimise disruption.

The RTBU is now in daily contact with Aurizon Intermodal and while company has implemented forced stand downs at the Taree depot, management has now finally agreed to work with the union to minimise the risk of stand downs at its Acacia Ridge, Yenoora and Junee depots by implementing flexible working practices and allowing members to undertake training courses.

The possibility of temporarily transferring Aurizon Intermodal employees from affected locations to non-affected locations, including Aurizon Coal and interstate operations, is currently being discussed and members will be updated as soon as more information is available.

PN member meetings

The RTBU will be holding Pacific National member meetings at the following locations to discuss the current emergency situation.

BRISBANE: Tuesday 5 May, 12pm, Runcorn Tavern, Sunnybank Hills

TAREE: Wednesday 6 May, 12pm, Taree Bowling Club

The RTBU recognises that this is a very difficult time for members and their families. We are doing everything we can to ensure employers minimise the impact on members, but unfortunately in the wake of a natural disaster like the one we have just faced, some disruption is inevitable.

We will endeavour to keep members as up to date as possible as things progress, but if you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your local delegate or the RTBU NSW office on (02) 9264 2511.